

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

March 1, 2005

Legislation was recently introduced in Sacramento pertaining to all First 5 Commissions in the State of California. Assembly Bill 109 (Chan) would require county commissions to cap administrative costs and require the State Controller to audit them every three years. Senate Bill 34 (Florez), would stipulate that three county officials on a First 5 Commission cannot constitute a majority; disallow a county supervisor from serving as Chair of any First 5 Commission; and create a “policy advisory board” comprised of a supervisor and representatives from every city in a county in order to make funding recommendations to First 5 Commissions. SB 35 (Florez), mirrors AB 109 almost entirely by requiring stronger auditing procedures for all First 5 Commissions.

At its monthly meeting in February, the First 5 LA Commission voted to oppose SB 34 on the grounds that it would unnecessarily limit the county’s influence in First 5 LA affairs. Moreover, specifically in regards to First 5 LA, SB 34 could require that the Commission’s Governance Board be expanded to include as many as 88 members—an

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unwieldy, impractical structure. The First 5 LA Commission has voted to lobby in Sacramento against this legislation and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors should support them in this effort.

AB 109 and SB 35 are very similar bills. Although the First 5 LA Commission did not find these two bills entirely to their liking, they voted to work with the bills' authors to amend the language so that stronger fiscal oversight by the State could be obtained without affecting local control. Specifically, First 5 LA understands that the State would wish to enact stronger auditing measures and would wish to place reasonable caps on administrative costs; however, the legislation, as currently written, does not specify how administrative costs would be defined or whether administrative costs of agencies that contract with First 5 LA would be included when tabulating First LA's overall administrative costs. The legislation also does not make explicit assurances that local control over programming would be maintained should this legislation pass. First 5 LA has decided to advocate in Sacramento for these amendments and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors should support them in this effort.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE, that the Board of Supervisors oppose SB 34 and support, if amended, AB 109 and SB 35.

I, FURTHER MOVE, that the Board of Supervisors grant the First 5 LA Commission the authority to speak on behalf of Los Angeles County in collaboration with Los Angeles County state legislative advocates' office in Sacramento, when lobbying on AB 109 and SB 35, and against SB 34.